

Children and Young People's Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Work Plan – November 2017

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This Panel will consider issues of significant public concern, areas of poor performance, and areas where members think the Council could provide better value for money

1. CURRENT WORK

Area for investigation	What does the topic include?	Why should panel consider?	How should panel proceed?	Timescale
School Organisation Steering Group	<p>1. In-depth investigations of proposed school changes</p> <p>2. Pupil Projections – methodology as applied generally and in particular in respect of new builds, including affordable housing</p> <p>3. Admission Arrangements</p> <p>Note: The School Organisation Group is a standing sub-group of the CYPS Policy and Scrutiny Panel and not a task and finish scrutiny working group.</p>	<p>Corporate Aim: Promoting lifelong learning opportunities</p> <p>Key issues for the public</p> <p>New National Code</p> <p>Specific recommendations regarding proposed expansions of Flax Bourton and Winford Schools</p>	<p>Steering Group: Cllrs <u>Ann Harley (Lead Member)</u>, Donald Davies, Bob Garner, David Oyns, Kate Stowey, Richard Tucker, Martin Williams, Deborah Yamanaka; Added Members - Ms Clare Hudson and Ms Caroline Holstein</p>	<p>Ongoing - to meet three times a year, as required.</p> <p>Next meeting 21st November to consider the new Education Commissioning Strategy</p>
School Organisation – Home to School Transport / SEN Task and Finish Working Group	<p>Review of Home to School Transport policy to include</p> <p>1) mainstream</p> <p>2) SEN</p> <p>3) post-16 SEN</p>	<p>An identified need to have an agreed policy framework endorsed by Councillors.</p>	<p>Task and Finish Working Group: Cllrs <u>Donald Davies (Lead Member)</u>, Ann Harley, Bob Garner, David Oyns, Kate Stowey, Richard Tucker, Deborah Yamanaka, Chris Blades (Chairman of SPED)</p>	<p>Investigation completed March 2017</p> <p>Executive Member decision DE109 28th September 2017 – Home to School Travel Assistance Policy</p>

<p>In-house Foster Carers (to focus on specific service area for review and improvement)</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group to identify a) how best to recruit foster carers b) how to provide incentive for them to remain Foster Carer Strategy Review</p>	<p>North Somerset is experiencing a particular pressure in recruiting and retaining sufficient numbers of in-house foster carers.</p>	<p>Working Group Members: Cllrs Mary Blatchford, Donald Davies, <u>Ann Harley (Lead Member)</u> , Bob Garner, Kate Stowey</p>	<p>WG meeting 19/02/16 27/10/16 Review meeting April 2017 Next to meet with foster carers</p>
<p>Education Transformation [White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere]</p>	<p>To review the potential impact and respond to the proposals in the Government's White Paper and school funding proposals</p>	<p>To assess the impact the proposals may have in North Somerset and make recommendations as appropriate</p>	<p>Steering Group Members: Cllrs Donald Davies, Bob Garner, David Oyns, <u>Ann Harley (Lead Member)</u>, Kate Stowey, Richard Tucker, Deborah Yamanaka</p>	<p>Ongoing - Correspondence with North Somerset MPs Response submitted to DfE consultation Ongoing review</p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group</p>	<p>To review the Council's current policies and procedures in line with national guidance and legislation</p>	<p>Timely review, as per previous recommendations of the previous CSE Working Group (see Section 3 Work Plan)</p>	<p>Steering Group Members: Cllrs Donald Davies, Bob Garner, <u>Ann Harley (Lead Member)</u>, David Oyns, Martin Williams</p>	<p>SG Meeting 19/04/17 CSE presented to July Panel Ongoing review</p>

2. ISSUES AWAITING RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE

Area for investigation	Date recommendations were agreed	Expect answer by (first panel meeting two months after recommendations were agreed)
<p>Home to School Transport Policy Review –</p> <p>The Working Group recommends that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All North Somerset Council policies, documents and processes reflect that the current parameters of living beyond two or three miles from school, dependent on age, are set nationally, but are there as part of the process of ensuring attendance for school children. They do not in any way prescribe how this transport function is delivered; 2. All requests for assistance should only be considered for the closest relevant school to the child’s home, be it primary, secondary or specialist. Parents should be made aware of this in any school place application system and it may not match their choice or that of the school or MAT. This may also mean that the closest school is in another council’s area or is not the school previously associated as the designated feeder school; 3. If schools or MATs wish to assist in transport provision for non-qualifying children as per Recommendation 2 above, then these requests should be considered as part of our Total Transport offer; 4. In principle, all post-16 transport should be chargeable against a published standard concessionary charging structure; 5. Investment is made in the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. training and staff awareness, both for NSC and education staff, to maximise opportunities to encourage parents and carers make their own provision prior to approaching NSC, in line with the nudge training advice provided by 	<p>29th March 2017</p>	<p>Response from Cllr Ap Rees (April 2017):</p> <p>“Thank you. The lead officers have already briefed me on this and will now produce a report based on the recommendations. Thanks to the members for their input. I personally found it a good and constructive report.”</p> <p>Full response to November Panel meeting following Executive Member decision regarding Home to School Transport Policy</p>

IMPOWER;

- ii. travel training for all relevant pupils;
- iii. a network of meeting points for pick-up points be established, checked for safety and accessibility;
- iv. changes to road network to provide safe walking/cycling to remove the costs of transport due to dangerous road conditions for pupils living less than the statutory distance from school;

- 6. Personal budgets for transport of qualifying children should be properly clarified and publicised, with a clear and straightforward payment mechanism;
- 7. The Council's Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) seeks to negotiate on-going season ticket travel for pupils (qualifying and non-qualifying) to use public transport, both for buses and trains;
- 8. Any parents with mobility vehicles for their children with SEN should be expected to provide transport to school in those vehicles, with the Council funding the fuel and running costs of those journeys in accordance with a funding matrix;
- 9. The ITU liaise with colleagues nationwide to explore other methods of delivery, such as the Medway Council method of procurement by school rather than by route;
- 10. When considering matters such as new specialist placement provision or proposed school expansion, consideration should be given to the financial impact across all budget areas. Financial savings within one budget may have a consequential adverse effect on home to school transport costs. Whilst the Council may benefit from an overall financial saving, it is recommended that this is evaluated at the scoping of any such decision.

(full report attached as Annex 1)

3. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Panel Recommendation	Date of Executive's response	Executive actions – implementation progress
Endorsed recommendations of the CSE working group		Reviewed July 2016 Report to Panel July 2017 with ongoing review by CSE Steering Group

4. FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE

Area for investigation	What does the topic include?	Why should panel consider?	How should panel proceed?	Timescale
Children looked after in residential care	Understanding the needs of our children in residential care and whether we can provide a better way of meeting their needs	Reduction in demand and preventative services are key areas in keeping spending at a minimum	Task and Finish Group	To be brought forward on the completion of one of the Panel's existing work commitments

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING / ONGOING ISSUES

Item	Dates
Performance and Finance Monitor	Report to each Panel meeting.
High Impact Families (Troubled Families) Programme	Joint monitoring of Phase 2 with ASH Panel members – further workshop to be held later 2017
Social Impact Bonds	Implementation monitor following key decision on award of contract taken in 2016

Notes - Reports on the following matters will be submitted to the Panel 2017/18

Report to each Panel meeting from Assistant Executive Member

Annual Report from Local Safeguarding Children's Board (to be considered in a session for all Councillors)

